

## REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present Application. Claim 4 is canceled with this Amendment.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 4. Support for the amendment to claim 2 can be found in the Specification at page 8, last line and at page 9, first line.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out particularly and claim distinctly the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 2 recites specific compounds having the formula -X-S-Y-. One skilled in the art reading claim 2 would clearly understand the compounds of formulas (1) to (8) to be specific compounds within the formula -X-S-Y-. Lines 11-15 of claim 2 define the substituent "X" as shown in formulas (7) and (8). Thus, the compounds of formulas (1) to (8) do not define "Y" as suggested in the Official Action, but rather define the compounds having the structure -X-S-Y-. Claim 2 has also been amended to more specifically recite the possible groups for "X". One skilled in the art reading the Specification and the claims would clearly understand "X" in claim 2 to include, e.g., "a linear or cyclic amino group containing 1-6 nitrogen atoms, 1-20 carbon atoms and multiple hydrogen atoms" as one possible substituent.

Applicants submit that claim 2 is definite and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.


Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belongia et al. (US 6,391,209) in combination with Barstad et al. (US 6,444,110). Applicants submit that this rejection is mooted by the present Amendment and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The limitation of claim 4 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit

that claims 1-3 and 5-8 are now allowable over the art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. Matthew Cairns".

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